

Message Text

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EUR - JAARMITAGE

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

EUR - AAHARTMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, YO, US (SEDMAK, MICHAEL)

SUBJECT: SEDMAK CASE

REF: BELGRADE 5002

1. AN EUR/EE OFFICER ON AUGUST 12 TELEPHONED SEDMAK'S
SISTER MRS. DALE HUNT TO ENSURE THAT SHE HAD INFORMATION
ABOUT HER BROTHER CONVEYED IN REFERENCE. BECAUSE SHE HAD
BEEN AWAY FROM HOME ON VACATION, EARLIER ATTEMPTS TO REACH
HER BY DEPARTMENT AND STAFF OF WISCONSIN CONGRESSMEN HAD
FAILED. APPRECIATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S AND EMBASSY'S
EFFORTS, SHE SAID SHE HAS TALKED TO LASZLO TOTH ABOUT
SEDMAK AND IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS HEALTH, WHICH
TOTH DESCRIBED AS POOR. THEREFORE, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD
APPRECIATE AN ATTEMPT BY THE EMBASSY TO ASCERTAIN SED-
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MAK'S CURRENT MEDICAL CONDITION, THROUGH A CONSULAR

VISIT IF FEASIBLE.

2. MRS. HUNT ALSO ASKED IF SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES BETWEEN HER AND SEDMAK, ALTHOUGH SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE YUGOSLAV RULES ALLOW ONLY ONE EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE PER MONTH AND THAT THE EMBASSY'S COMBINATION OF HER LETTERS WITH THOSE FROM THE TRIESTE RELATIVES RESULTS THEREFROM. UNLESS YOU

DEEM IT COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR RAISING THIS MATTER WITH YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES, POSSIBLY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, TO SEE IF THEY WOULD PERMIT MORE DIRECT AND FREQUENT COMMUNICATION FOR SEDMAK'S STATESIDE RELATIVES. THE FAMILY IN TRIESTE WOULD PRESUMABLY BENEFIT AS WELL.

3. IN LIGHT OF TOTH'S RELEASE, MRS. HUNT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HER BROTHER COULD SOMEHOW GAIN HIS OWN FREEDOM. SHE ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON. ALTHOUGH NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THE INFORMATION THAT THE APPEAL PROCEDURE (AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCE) IS JUDGED TO BE THE BEST ROUTE NOW AVAILABLE, SHE SEEMED DISPOSED TO ACCEPT IT.

4. THE DEPARTMENT HAD PASSED SOME OF THE INFORMATION FROM THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM TO THE OFFICES OF SENATORS PROXMIRE AND NELSON AND REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM STEIGER IN RESPONSE TO INTEREST EXPRESSED ON BEHALF OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS, MRS. HUNT AND MRS. ANNE KLAWA. SCS HAS ADDITIONAL CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES OF A MORE GENERAL NATURE DEALING WITH THE SEDMAK CASE WHICH IT IS FORWARDING FOR EMBASSY COMMENT AND REPLY, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF PRIVACY ACT RESTRAINTS. KISSINGER

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